IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14 and 16 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~In a system including a first storage system at a first site associated with a first host and a second storage system at a second site associated with a second host, wherein the first storage system and the second storage system are coupled each other by a remote copy link so that the second storage system receives a copied data from the first storage system via the remote copy link, a~~ A method for checking a status of a system at a [[the]] first site, comprising:

providing the system including a first storage system at the first site associated with a first host and a second storage system at a second site associated with a second host, the first storage system and the second storage system being coupled to each other by a remote copy link so that the second storage system receives copied data from the first storage system via the remote copy link;

monitoring a rate of I/O ~~activity~~ requests from the first host to the first storage system thereinto by the first storage system;

determining an operation status of the first host based on the rate of I/O ~~activity on~~ requests from the first host by the first storage system; and

sending the status of the first host from the first storage system to the second storage system via the remote copy link by the first storage system.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of identifying a first volume in the first storage system, wherein the I/O ~~activity~~ requests from the first host to the first volume is monitored.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the status of the first host is determined based on~~ the rate of I/O ~~activity rate~~ requests from the first host to the first storage system is an I/O frequency, a Write/Read Input/Output Per Second (IOPS), or a port usage.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the status of the first host is determined as dead if the ~~I/O activity~~ rate of I/O requests is less than a first threshold.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sending an alert signal from the second storage system to the second host based on the status sent from the first storage system.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring a rate of I/O ~~activity~~ requests from the second host to the second storage system;

determining an operational status of the second host based on the rate of I/O ~~activity on~~ requests from the second host; and

sending the status of the second host from the second storage system to the first storage system via the remote copy link.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of identifying a second volume in the second storage system, wherein the I/O ~~activity~~ requests from the second host to the second volume is monitored.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the status of the second host is determined based on the rate of I/O ~~activity rate~~ requests from the second host to the second storage system.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the status of the first host is determined as dead if the rate of I/O ~~activity rate~~ requests is less than a threshold.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of sending an alert signal from the first storage system to the first host based on the status sent from the second storage system.

11. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

a first storage system at a first site associated with a first host; and

a second storage system at a second site associated with a second host, wherein the first storage system and the second storage system are coupled each other by a remote copy link so that the second storage system receives a copied data from the first storage system via the remote copy link,

wherein the first storage system is configured to:

monitor a rate of I/O requests received from the first host thereinto;

determine an operational status of the first host based on the rate of I/O ~~activity~~ requests from the first host, and

send the status of the first host to the second storage system via the remote copy link.

12. (Currently Amended) The processing system of claim 11, wherein the first storage system monitors I/O requests from the first [[hot]] host to an identified volume thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) The processing system of claim 11, wherein ~~the status of the first host is determined based on~~ the rate of I/O ~~activity rate~~ requests from the first host to the first storage system is an I/O frequency, a Write/Read Input/Output Per Second (IOPS), or a port usage.

14. (Currently Amended) The processing system of claim 13, wherein the status of the first host is determined as dead if the rate of I/O ~~activity rate~~ requests is less than a first threshold.

15. (Original) The processing system of claim 11, wherein the second storage system is configured to send an alert signal to the second host based on the status sent from the first storage system.

16. (Currently Amended) The processing system of claim 11, further comprising a third storage system coupled with the first storage system via ~~a first~~ another remote copy link,

wherein the first storage system is configured to send the status of the first host to the third storage system via ~~the first~~ said another remote copy link.